

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)
Monthly Newsletter for the Durham Community
April 2015

North Carolina Gun Law: Possession of a Firearm by a Felon (N.C.G.S. 14-415.1)

It is against the law for any person who has been convicted of a felony to purchase, own, possess, or have in his custody, care, or control any firearm (except an antique firearm) or weapon of mass destruction. This crime is a Class G felony and may be punishable by forty-seven (47) months in prison.

Pocket-size cards detailing many North Carolina firearm statutes are available to the public by Project Safe Neighborhoods. Please call 560-4438 x29230 to request cards for your community or organization.

PSN Spotlight Initiative: A Community Response

The Community Response to Violent Acts is a strategy utilized for violent incidents or any crimes likely to have a retaliation effect among those involved. The Response consists of a door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhood where the crime occurred. Conducted by the Durham Police Department, partnering agencies and organizations, and concerned citizens, the canvass is designed to have a four-fold effect:

- a. To develop investigative leads in the case;
- b. To provide information to the community about the violent act and to reassure them that law enforcement is doing everything it can to solve the case and protect the citizens;
- c. To support the involved community in its efforts to recover from the violent act;
- d. To visibly demonstrate the Project Safe Neighborhoods partnership by having law enforcement and community representatives conducting the Response.

Partners are notified via e-mail of the time, date, location, and reason for a Response when one has been scheduled. Participants convene at the Response site, where the Response coordinator conducts a short briefing and responders sign in. Participants are divided into teams; each team consisting of both community members and law enforcement officers. The teams disperse to assigned sections of the neighborhood, handing out flyers door-to-door and talking with residents about the violent incident that precipitated the Response, as well as any other concerns the residents may have. When the canvass is complete, responders reconvene, participate in a short debriefing (if necessary), and sign out. Most Responses last no more than thirty to forty-five minutes.

ONE SIMPLE THING YOU CAN DO to Prevent Gun Crime in Durham: Safely Secure Firearms

Store legal firearms in a locked cabinet with bullets removed and secured in a separate place. The primary way that young people acquire guns is by stealing them from strangers, taking them from family and friends, and trading for them with items on the street. Please keep your family and the community safer by properly securing your firearms.

Pointers for Parents: Parenting for Gang Prevention

- Be a good role model. You must set the standards for acceptable behavior. Kids who are exposed to dishonesty, drug/alcohol abuse and a lack of respect for people, property and authority are more likely to exhibit similar behavior.
- Spend time with your kids. Get involved in your child's life and stay involved.
- When they go out, find out where they are going, who they're going with, when they will be home and who is getting them home. Do NOT let them leave unless you have all your bases covered.
- Build positive self-esteem. Kids who have the proper self-image don't rely on gangs for recognition or status.

- Take an active interest in your children's activities. Get them involved in organized after-school sports or activities, and if they quit what they'd been actively involved in, find out the reason.
- Report any crimes or suspicious activities to police, school authorities, and parents.

PSN in Your Neighborhood

April 9: DHA Liberty Street Community

April 15: DHA Forest Hill Heights Community

April 21: DHA Morreene Road Community